



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

If this be incontrovertible, it opens up an interesting question as to the cause of the desiccation in the vicinity of the big trees. The ratio of disintegration in a mountain peak, by the frost, rains, and elements generally, and the descent of the loose mass to the lower lands by the simple law of gravity alone, would depend on the width of the peak, as well as the nature of the material. In the process of ages, peaks covered with snow would be lowered till they were no longer snow-capped in summer, and thus lower regions in the vicinity, covered perchance with *Sequoia*, would be under dryer atmospheric conditions. To a greater or less extent this must be the case in all mountain changes, but whether this could have been going on to any appreciable extent in the few thousand years during which these trees have occupied the spot, is a question for geologists to determine. However, Mr. Muir himself gives good reasons for the belief that these trees followed from the west, eastwardly, in the close wake of retreating glaciers, and when the atmospheric moisture, as well as that of the earth contiguous, must have been more moist than now.

In regard to the age of the trees, Mr. Meehan said doubts had been expressed whether the *Sequoia* might not make more than one annual circle of wood a year, and thus render the count by these annual circles unsafe. He had given close attention to this point on the ground, by measuring the height of thrifty young trees, and estimating by the growth per year the probable age. A tree of say thirty, forty or fifty feet, would be seen to be about that many years old. The diameter of the trunk would then be taken and found to correspond with the one annual ring per year in the sections of the larger trees, as per actual count. There would be no question but the larger trees were over 2000 years old.

He found that when about three or four hundred years old, the trees ceased to increase in height to any appreciable degree, the effort of the tree being more in a lateral direction, and the nutritive matter necessary to the building up of the trunk was mainly the work of the side branches. The height of one called "Haverford," after our sister college, he found, by a rough triangulation, to be about 249 feet.

SEPTEMBER 25.

Rev. Dr. H. C. McCook, Vice-President, in the chair.

Thirty-seven persons present.

The death of Alexis T. Cope, a member, was announced.

Restoration of Limbs in Tarantula.—Rev. Dr. McCook remarked that the tarantula exhibited had been kept in confinement nearly a year, fed during winter on raw beef and in summer on grasshoppers. In the spring it cast its skin, by a laborious